

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

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DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA--THE MILITARY SITUATION

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The Khmer Communists on September 15 and 16 used 105-mm. howitzers to shell the provincial capital of Kompong Cham--on the Mekong River some 45 miles north of Phnom Penh. These were the first such shellings since the city was under heavy insurgent attack nearly a year ago. Despite artillery fire, there is no evidence that the communists are planning to renew major ground action against Kompong Cham.

Elsewhere, government forces are continuing their successful clearing operations in Kompong Chhnang Province northwest of Phnom Penh where 4,000 civilians have returned to government lines in the past few days. This

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raises to over 20,000 the total number of civilians freed in Kompong Chhnang and nearby Pursat Province since early August. Government operations near Phnom Penh and along Route 4 in the far southwest remain stalled.